

**Department of Agriculture
Illinois State Fairgrounds Coliseum
CDB Project Number 039-150-184
April 23, 2020**

Fine Arts Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Fine Arts Committee Members

Karla Kunzeman, Illinois Arts Council

Robert Sill, Illinois State Museum

Robin Whitehurst, Bailey Edward

Kevin Gordon, Department of Agriculture

Other Attendees

Linda Norbut Suits, Capital Development Board

Val Booth, Department of Agriculture

Joseph Ritter, Capital Development Board

- Linda Norbut Suits called the meeting to order at 2:03pm and called roll. The meeting was conducted virtually.
- Ms. Suits went over the legislative mandates and process for the Committee. Per the legislation, the Committee is responsible for selecting no less than three (3) artist/artist teams to be put under contract to create design proposals. Ms. Suits reviewed the legislated definition of art. She then explained that this meeting is subject to the Open Meetings Act and thus Ms. Suits will be recording the meeting and Mr. Ritter would be taking notes during the meeting. Ms. Suits then went over the project budget. The overall budget is \$73,000.00. Artists put under contract to create design proposals will receive \$1,500.00 from the budget.
- Mr. Whitehurst then gave an overview of the project. The project on the Coliseum is being done in two phases. The first phase included ensuring the structural stability of the building through demolition and replacement of the entire roof system, repair of steel structural elements as well as window and siding replacement that replicates 1903 details. Phase two of the project continues the work with an emphasis on historic rehabilitation and restoration work. In addition to life/health/safety upgrades, the work

will focus on removing non-historic building elements and returning the structure as closely as possible to its original appearance. The new artwork will be located at the northwest corner of the Coliseum building. This means that the artwork will be located on a major thoroughfare during the State Fair. The goal is that the artwork area will open the space and highlight the Coliseum to visitors. It will also act as a “gathering place” for people during the Fair.

- Ms. Suits then went over the artist score sheet and the optional process for scoring. She then reminded the Committee of the project’s artistic objectives. Winning artists would be asked to design “an exterior sculpture or installation that will activate the new entry plaza area being created for the Coliseum restoration project. In addition to artwork the area will provide a sense of arrival to the building and incorporate seating and landscaping. The themes that the Committee is most interested in exploring are the importance of agriculture to Illinois as well as the Coliseum as a site of joyful gathering. A long, low building, the Coliseum epitomizes the fertile, flat, loess prairies that have nurtured agriculture in Illinois for millennia. It is at the heart of the State Fair, the state’s annual celebration of its agrarian heritage and reconnects the state’s urban and suburban centers to its rural roots. It is also the site of over a century of joyful gatherings for families, friends, and communities. The piece must be durable, safe, and cost effective to maintain and must be able to endure the rigors of the Illinois climate.”
- Ms. Suits explained that normally, Committee members would sign a concurrence sheet at the end of the meeting indicating the winning artists/artist teams. Because the meeting was conducted virtually, Ms. Suits will send out an email listing the winning artists. Committee members will respond to the email indicating their concurrence.
- Ms. Suits then shared with the Committee the three previous AIA artwork projects at the Fairgrounds.
- With no further questions about the project, the Committee moved to reviewing the artists.
- The Committee was shown images of the applicants’ previous work as well as the artists’ bio and resume. The Committee opted to have a brief discussion of each individual artist/artist team and then have one final discussion of all the applicants at the end.
- The Committee members were pleased with the number and variety applicants. Ultimately, the following artists/artist teams were chosen for commission:
 - John Adduci
 - Ted Garner
 - David Seagraves and Sean Rennau
- Ms. Suits said she would contact the winning artists and then set the date for the final selection FARC meeting within the week. With no further questions, Ms. Suits adjourned the meeting at 3:43 pm.